



# Cohasset Marine

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## The Shot Seen 'Round The World

By Judith Epstein

How many of us have had a moment in our lives that changed us forever? Not many. But for some it may have come as a moment of tragedy or triumph. For Harry Trask it came as both.

It came 22 years ago when Trask, as a 28 year old *Herald Traveler* photographer, recorded the last nine minutes in the life of the luxury liner the "Andrea Doria." His photograph of the lifeboats being torn from the ship as she plummeted bow first into the Atlantic earned him the Pulitzer Prize for the best news photograph in 1957.

The world has never let him forget it and the story that surrounds the shooting of the picture — and the picture itself — is as fascinating today as it was then.

Over forty people were killed when the Swedish line "Stockholm" collided midship with the prize of the Italian line, the "Andrea Doria," on the night of July 25, 1956, 45 miles off the coast of Nantucket. It was around midnight when Trask received a call from the *Herald Traveler* City Editor and was asked to report to the scene of a "terrible accident." Trask, until he understood the nature and enormity of the disaster, believed it was a car crash.

He then travelled from his apartment on Summer Street in Cohasset, to Revere where the *Traveler* had rented a twin-engine plane awaiting his journey to Nantucket. He was told, however, that the pilot would not fly beyond the Cape Islands and was therefore without passage for the 45 mile trip out to sea where the *Andrea Doria* was listing.

(Trask, although working the day shift, had been called to shoot the scene as the newspaper's other photographers were covering the rescue operations in New York.)

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## Teacher Evaluations Modified

By Ann Fogg

The School Committee hammered out a two-part charge to the sub-committee which will develop new instruments for teacher evaluation, "the most sensitive issue facing education," according to Superintendent Dr. John Maloney.

Wrestling with the question posed Monday night by Secretary Patricia Walsh, "Are we trying to rank teachers or to improve education?"

the Committee decided the primary purpose of whatever instrument they devised was to improve the quality of instruction.

Dr. Maloney pointed out that the improvement of teaching and "riffing" (deciding who stays and who goes) cannot be done by the same person or by the same instrument. "The present instrument isn't working," he said. "We need drastic measures. But no one else has solved the problem yet either."

Committee member Diane Kornet suggested the wording of the charge that Mrs. Walsh put into motion. "The purpose of this evaluation is to improve the instructional quality of our teachers."

Vice Chairman Frank England suggested that since the reduction in staff, would probably never exceed 10 per cent, that a more honest approach would be to include the fact that the goal of the evaluation was also to retain the best teachers. He moved an amendment to the motion: "The secondary purpose of this evaluation is that, should we find it necessary to reduce our faculty, this instrument shall be used to aid the school committee to retain the best teachers."

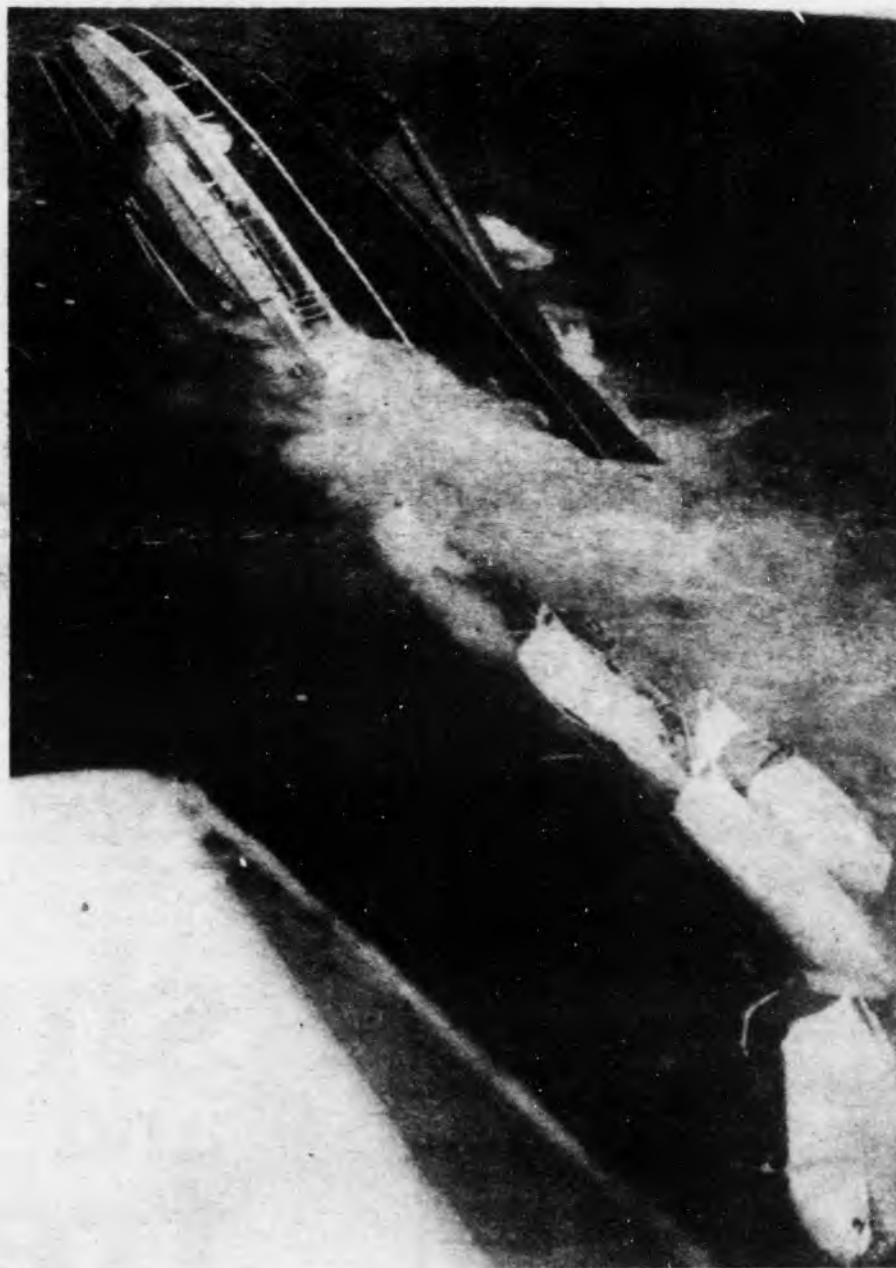
Chairman Jack Langmaid pointed out that the Committee needed to develop a method to determine the most qualified. The vote on the amendment lost, 1 to 4 with one abstention, and the motion passed, 5-1. England told the Committee they had just blown the whole thing, but Mrs. Walsh suggested they develop a second instrument.

Dr. Maloney pointed out that he was the one who had to recommend those who had to go, and that school superintendents had not been successful in riffing by using existing evaluation systems. "We must get a separate instrument."

England said that they needed a more mechanical way to deal with a situation in which, for example, the system had 10 English teachers, all on tenure, and needed eight.

Mrs. Kornet said that improvement of teaching quality requires an instrument that keeps teachers from fear and agreed that riffing needed a separate instrument. She said that many things must be considered, such as the fact that older teachers have a harder time on the job market than younger ones. She recommended Duxbury's point system that looked objectively at categories such as department chairmanship and extra-curricular activities.

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MAN AND MEMORY — Harry Trask, local resident now a school teacher in Boston, and the photo that won him a Pulitzer while he was photographer for former *Herald Traveler* — the sinking of the Italian liner the "Andrea Doria."

## Special Status Talks In Exec Session

Selectmen met last week in executive session with Eric Pearson, owner of Highway Motor Sales, to discuss the special municipal employee status given to many town employees. Selectmen will again broach the issue at a future open board meeting.

Pearson alleged last March that two members and one former member of the Planning Board were in violation of the conflict of interest law. The Attorney General then ruled that all were free of criminal violation of the law.

It was noted that Planning Board Chairman Glen Pratt and Vice-Chairman John Bradley were exempt from a portion of the law which prohibited municipal employees to have financial

interest in contracts made by an agency of the same town by way of special municipal employee status.

Selectmen in 1962 voted to apply the status to many of the town boards. Town Counsel J. Blake Thaxter recently opined that "it would be inappropriate to now change the designations." The reasons he gave explained that the state Town Counsel Association had then agreed that certain positions should be classified as special town employees, that most towns have used similar designations, and that if the designation weren't made many capable people wouldn't have been able to serve the town.

Pearson met with the Selectmen, he said, because he personally doesn't

feel that municipal employees should be exempt from the conflict of interest law in any way. Pearson questioned whether a special municipal status should exist for employees who would otherwise be prosecuted for violation of the conflict of interest law.

He feels that no town should have special municipal employees designations. "Is exemption for the good of the people? Is it in the best interest of the town? What is this fear of prosecution?" he queried of the status which he feels gives unnecessary additional protection from the law.

"Of the Selectmen I have no question whatsoever, that they are

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